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Karm
PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 07191.8054
(AlliedSignal Docket No. 30-3986 DIVI (CPA))
2/19/99

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Clemmer et al)

Serial No.: 08/959,748

Examiner: A. Pryor

Filing Date: October 28, 1997

Art Unit: 1616

For: Process for Production of
Difluoromethane)



Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please enter the following amendment and consider the following remarks. Claims 1-9, 19 and 20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 19 are rejected and claims 5 and 20 are objected to.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

Claim 1, line 3, delete "of" and substitute -- comprising -- therefor.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(a, e):

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-9 as being anticipated by WO 94/21579 and Boniface et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,672,786. Applicants submit herewith a Declaration under 37 CFR § 1.131 to remove the WO 94/21579 reference and have previously filed a statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.608(a) concerning the Boniface et al. patent. The Rule 131 declaration evidences conception and reduction to practice prior to the effective date of the WO 94/21579 reference (i.e. September 29, 1994), of a process for the production of difluoromethane comprising (a) contacting dichloromethane with hydrogen fluoride in the presence of a fluorination catalyst to produce a product stream

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